

haps better supply these needs than any
one else and it would get my card, at-
tention and a great deal of work pra-
ctis. This is the general idea not
very lucidly expressed. It is wrong
however until I hear from you.

Until I again hear from you
I should like this to be considered
confidential. You can probably tell
me whether or not there is any
thing in it. If not it need go
no further. In case you think it
worth pursuing we can speak more
definitely. I shall be obliged for
your candid opinion and very grate-
ful for any advice you may give.

Truly,
Yours,
Wm. H. Allen

Wilmington Febr. 16th 1882

My Dear Dr. Gray,

I enclose fruit
of *Orontium* from *Commersonia* and the best
I can send of *Symplocarpus* from my
Herb. These things are so common
with us that I suppose we have not
thought them worth collecting!

While with Mr. Redfield on
Monday evening he told me of
the designs of the Metropolitan
Museum in regard to a Botanical
Collection, speaking also of your connect-
ion with it. I told him that I
had been thinking of selling my *Hecht-*
arium and he thought that it
would be worth while to mention it
to you. It is not necessary that I
should give my reasons for wishing to
dispose of it at present further than

to say that it is getting so large as
to be somewhat beyond my control as
at present situated.

I do not know how the
idea of thus disposing of it may
strike you or whether indeed it
would be a desirable ~~an~~ acquisition
to the Museum. You know to some
extent what it is - it being a sup-
pose among the largest private Her-
baria of this country. It is the
result of nearly 25 years labor and
has cost me a large amount of
money. All the American plants are
glued down and the foreign ones as
far as I could procure are complete in their
respect and a great many ^{other} of the lar-
gest genera are also done; such as
Galium, Senecio, Centaurea, Euphorbia
Sals, Cass. &c. &c. I should like to
finish the balance of the gluing down
and could do it in a comparatively

short time.

It is not necessary to speak of
the price until something more is known
by me but I may say something of
terms. If not for cash for a price
agreed upon how would an arrange-
ment like this strike you. The value
or price for the whole including du-
plicates, paper, &c. to be agreed
upon and this to be invested and the
interest to be applied by me to the
care and increase of the Herbarium
(not including anything for my own ser-
vices) the principal to be paid to me
or my heirs or assigns, whenever the
property changed hands; all sums coming
into my hands for said care and in-
crease to be strictly accounted for. Of
course this means that the collection
would remain here where I could superin-
tend it; the advantage being that know-
ing what was most needed I could pro-